

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A toner comprising a binder resin and at least a colorant, wherein:

the toner has a storage modulus ($G' (L1)$) in a linear region and a storage modulus ($G' (NL)$) in a nonlinear region at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a linear region to a nonlinear region of viscoelastic characteristics, satisfying the relationships of

$G' (L1)/G' (NL)$ is from 5 to 20, and

$G' (NL)$ is from 100 to 400 dyn/cm²; and

the binder resin comprises a block polyester and an amorphous polyester; ~~and~~

~~the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 4 parts by weight or less per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.~~

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): An image forming ~~system apparatus~~ comprising:
~~an image forming apparatus; and~~
~~a toner; wherein:~~

~~the image forming apparatus comprises:~~

an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed;
a developing unit containing a toner, wherein the developing unit ~~which~~ develops the electrostatic latent image on the image carrier to form a toner image by the toner;
a transferring unit which transfers the toner image on the image carrier to a recording medium; and
a fixing unit which fixes the toner image transferred to the recording medium by heating, wherein the fixing unit has oil-less two rollers; and
the toner is the toner of claim 1 and has a dynamic viscoelastic characteristic showing a behavior of a linear region (L1) at an inlet of a fixing nip, a behavior of a nonlinear region (NL) at the fixing nip part, and a behavior of a linear region (L2) at an outlet of the fixing nip.

4. (currently amended): A toner comprising a binder resin and at least a colorant, wherein:

the toner has a storage modulus ($G' (L2)$) in a linear region at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a nonlinear region to a linear region of viscoelastic characteristics, of from 400 to 2,000 dyn/cm²; and

the binder resin comprises a block polyester and an amorphous polyester; ~~and~~

~~the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 4 parts by weight or less per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.~~

5. (original): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the toner has a ratio of the storage modulus ($G' (L2)$) to the storage modulus ($G' (NL)$) in a nonlinear region $G' (L2)/G' (NL)$

at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a nonlinear region to a linear region of viscoelastic characteristics, of from 3 to 8.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): An image forming ~~system~~ apparatus comprising:
~~an image forming apparatus; and~~
~~a toner; wherein:~~
 ~~the image forming apparatus comprises:~~
 an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed;
 a developing unit containing a toner, wherein the developing unit which develops the electrostatic latent image on the image carrier to form a toner image by the toner;
 a transferring unit which transfers the toner image on the image carrier to a recording medium; and
 a fixing unit which fixes the toner image transferred to the recording medium by heating, wherein the fixing unit has oil-less two rollers; and
the toner is the toner of claim 4 or 5 and has a dynamic viscoelastic characteristic showing a behavior of a linear region (L1) at an inlet of a fixing nip, a behavior of a nonlinear region (NL) at the fixing nip part, and a behavior of a linear region (L2) at an outlet of the fixing nip.